

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB284:  
“An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to  
Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status”**

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Joan Bosson-Heenan, MPH and I am a clinical research administrator and public health professional in New Haven, CT.

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

The downstream health outcomes for immigrants will be vastly improved by receiving health insurance access and the economic impact on our health care system can only be improved by increasing the number of individuals able to utilize preventive care across their lifespan.

I live in a neighborhood largely populated by immigrants, it is this population, and its richness of culture that drew us there. Over the last 15 years I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that a lack of insurance presents to families, this was particularly evident as I participated in a COVID-19 vaccination outreach program last year.

I support S.B. 284, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your time,

Joan Bosson-Heenan, MPH